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COMMITTEE OF EXPERTS ON THE
TRANSPORT OF DANGEROUS GOODS

Sub-Committee of Experts on the
Transport of Dangerous Goods
(Fourteenth session,
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agenda item 2 (d))

DRAFT AMENDMENTS TO THE MODEL REGULATIONS ON THE TRANSPORT OF DANGEROUS GOODS

Introduction of UN entries in Class 3 for desensitised nitroglycerine mixtures - consequential amendments

Transmitted by the Expert from Belgium

Introduction

During the July meeting of the Sub-Committee of Experts ont the Transport of Dangerous Goods, the expert from Belgium stated his intention to bring his proposal ST/SG/AC.10/R.510 in line with the format of the Model Regulations. The principle of the proposal received the support of several experts.

The written comments of the USA concerning paragraph 2.1.3.5.3 (in INF 14) have been taken into consideration in proposal 8. Here however, some basic principles may still have to be discussed. Belgium assumed that :

- all desensitized explosives will be subject to the Model Regulations, unless the contrary is explicitly stated in the Dangerous Goods List of Chapter 3.2;
- all liquid desensitized explosives are to be assigned to Class 3 and all solid desensitized explosives to Division 4.1, even if they are not flammable or if they meet the criteria or definition for another class or division.

If these assumptions are not agreed upon, the proposed paragraph 2.1.3.5.3 will have to be changed accordingly of course. But it means also that - if in the future desensitized explosives are assigned to another class or division than 3 or 4.1 - that class or division is to be adapted in the same way as proposed for Class 3 in this document.

Proposals

1. Change the heading of Chapter 2.3 to read " **CLASS 3 - FLAMMABLE LIQUIDS AND LIQUID DESENSITISED EXPLOSIVES** ".

2. In Chapter 2.3, introduce under the introductory notes the following new headings and paragraph :

" **2.3.1 General**

Class 3 includes the following types of substances :

(a) flammable liquids (see 2.3.2);

(b) liquid desensititized explosives (see 2.3.3).

2.3.2 Class 3 Flammable liquids

2.3.2.1 *Definitions and properties* "

The heading " **2.3.1 Definition and general provisions** " is eliminated; in all subsequent reference numbers of this chapter, "2." is inserted after the initial "2.3."

3. Add, at the end of chapter 2.3, the following section :

2.3.3 Class 3 Liquid desensititized explosives

2.3.3.1 Liquid desensitised explosives are substances which are dissolved or suspended in water or other liquid substances, to form a homogeneous liquid mixture to suppress their explosive properties (see 2.1.3.5.3).
Entries in the Dangerous Goods List for liquid desensitised explosives are : UN Nos [1204], 2059, 3064, 3343.

4. In 2.4.2 (the heading of Division 4.1) and in 2.4.2.1 (c), replace "desensitized explosives" by "solid desensitized explosives".

5. Revise 2.4.2.4 to read:

2.4.2.4 Division 4.1 Solid desensitised explosives

Solid desensitised explosives are substances which are wetted with water or alcohols or are diluted with other substances, to form a homogeneous solid mixture to suppress their explosive properties (see 2.1.3.5.3).
Entries in the Dangerous Goods List for solid desensitised explosives are : UN Nos 1310, 1320, 1321, 1322, 1336, 1337, 1344, 1347, 1348, 1349, 1354, 1355, 1356, 1357, 1517, 1571, 2555, 2556, 2852, 2907, 3270 and 3319.

6. Add in section 2.0.3 (Precedence of hazard characteristics) a new item (c) into the list of substances whose primary characteristics always take precedence :

"(c) liquid desensitised explosives of Class 3;"

Adapt the lettering system of the table, to take account of this addition.

7. Add in table 2.0.3.1 *Precedence of hazard* an asterisk after 3 I, 3 II and 3 III in the column at the left and introduce a new footnote :

" * Substances of Class 3 other than desentisized explosives."

Replace the existing single asterisk in the table and in the footnotes by a double and the double by a triple.
In this respect the need for the existing single asterisk after 5.1 I, II and III is questioned.

8. Revise 2.1.3.5.3 to read :

" 2.1.3.5.3 Where a substance is assigned to Class 1 but is diluted to be excluded from Class 1 by Test Series 6, this diluted substance (hereafter referred to as desensitized explosive) should be listed in the Dangerous Goods List of Chapter 3.2 with an indication of the highest concentration which excluded it from Class 1 (see 2.3.3 and 2.4.2.4) and - should this be the case - the concentration below which it is no longer deemed subject to these Regulations. New solid desensitised explosives subject to these Regulations should be listed in Division 4.1 and new liquid desensitised explosives should be listed in Class 3. When the desensitized explosive meets the criteria or definition for another class or division, the corresponding subsidiary risk(s) should be assigned to it. "